AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A connector comprising:

a connector housing having a terminal receiving side configured to receive a terminal and an engaging side opposite the terminal receiving side;

a locking member [[on]] having an end fixed to a wall of the connector housing between the terminal receiving side and the engaging side and a distal free end ~~being~~ configured to lock with a mating member;

a holder ~~mated with~~ configured for insertion into the engaging side of the connector housing and ~~being configured~~ to hold the terminal; and

a locking mechanism configured to lock the wall of the connector housing ~~and~~ to the holder ~~with each other against the locking member~~ to resist deflection of the wall during flexure of the locking member.

2. (Original) The connector according to claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism includes a dovetail joint.

3. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim 2, wherein the dovetail joint includes[[,]]:

a dovetail groove provided [[to]] in one of the connector housing and the holder[[,]]; and

a locking projection provided [[to]] on the other one of the connector housing and the holder and ~~being inserted in~~ configured to slidably engage the dovetail groove.

4. (Currently Amended) The connector according to claim [[1]] 3,

wherein at least one of the dovetail groove and the locking projection converges in an insertion direction of the holder into the connector housing.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A connector comprising:

a connector housing having a terminal receiving side configured to receive terminal fixtures inside of the connector housing, an engaging side opposite the terminal receiving side, and an outer peripheral wall disposed between the terminal receiving side and the engaging side;

~~a locking member including an arm having an end supported by an outer peripheral wall, and configured to lock with a mating connector in an engagement state due to flexible deformation of the arm;~~

a front holder inserted in the connector housing from [[an]] the engaging side of the connector housing for preventing the terminal fixtures from falling [[off]] out of the connector housing; and

a ~~flex-prevention locking mechanism~~ plurality of dovetail joints disposed between the outer peripheral wall and the front holder for preventing the outer peripheral wall from flexing.

7. (New) The connector of claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism includes a plurality of dovetail joints distributed across the wall of the connector housing.

8. (New) The connector of claim 1, wherein the locking mechanism is aligned with a sliding engagement direction of the holder.

9. (New) The connector of claim 1, further including a retention mechanism configured to resist separation of the holder from the connector housing.

10. (New) The connector of claim 9, wherein the retention mechanism includes at least one locking projection located on one of the holder and the connector housing and configured to engage a channel located on the other of the holder and the connector housing.

11. (New) The connector of claim 10, wherein the at least one projection includes at least one provisional projection for retaining the holder in a first position relative to the connector housing and at least one primary projection for retaining the holder in a second position relative to the connector housing.

12. (New) The connector of claim 10, further including a flexible locking arm disposed on one of the holder and the connector housing and configured to retain the terminal.

13. (New) The connector of claim 12, further including an arm deformation preventor located on the other of the holder and the connector housing and configured to prevent the flexible locking arm from flexing when the holder is engaged with the connector housing.

14. (New) The connector of claim 6, further including a locking member including an arm having an end supported by the outer peripheral wall, and configured to lock with a mating connector in an engagement state due to flexible deformation of the arm.

15. (New) The connector according to claim 6, wherein each of the plurality of dovetail joints includes:

a dovetail groove provided on one of the connector housing and the holder; and

a locking projection provided on the other one of the connector housing and the holder and configured to slidably engage the dovetail groove,

wherein at least one of the dovetail groove and the locking projection converges in an insertion direction of the holder into the connector housing.

16. (New) The connector of claim 6, further including a retention mechanism configured to resist separation of the holder from the connector housing.

17. (New) The connector of claim 16, wherein the retention mechanism includes at least one locking projection located on one of the holder and the connector housing and configured to engage a channel located on the other of the holder and the connector housing.

18. (New) The connector of claim 6, further including a flexible locking arm disposed on one of the holder and the connector housing and configured to retain the terminal.

19. (New) The connector of claim 18, further including an arm deformation preventor located on the other of the holder and the connector housing and configured to prevent the flexible locking arm from flexing when the holder is engaged with the connector housing.

20. (New) A method of assembling a terminal into a connector, the method comprising:

inserting a terminal into a terminal receiving side of a connector housing;

slidably inserting a holder into an engaging side of the connector housing, the engaging side being opposite the terminal receiving side and the holder being configured to hold the terminal within the connector housing; and

locking a wall of the connector housing disposed between the terminal receiving side and the engaging side to the holder via at least one dovetail joint to reduce movement of the wall during assembly of the connector housing with a mating member.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the at least one dovetail joint includes a dovetail groove disposed on one of the connector housing and the holder and a projection disposed on the other of the connector housing and the holder, wherein at least one of the dovetail groove and the projection converges in an insertion direction of the holder into the connector housing to tighten a fit between the dovetail groove and the projection as the holder is slidably inserted into the connector housing.